



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

August 31, 2007

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

Thank you for your letter requesting information on an environmental assessment performed by Millennium Consulting Associates at the West Los Angeles campus of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLAHS) campus.

GLAHS contracted with Millennium Consulting Associates to perform a review and inspection of portions of the campus. This study was requested to address public concerns that medical waste buried in the East Arroyo area of the campus, in the late 1950s to the mid-1960s, may cause health risks to the general public. The burying of low level radioactive materials on the VA campus was legal at that time.

The East Arroyo area has been studied throughout the years by various agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Los Angeles County Public Health Office and environmental consultants. The conclusion of all the studies was that there is no health hazard to the general public associated with this area of the VA campus.

The work conducted to date by Millennium Consulting Associates (referred to as Phase 1) has consisted of a review of past historical documents, environment assessments and maps, as well as interviews with staff that had involvement in the East Arroyo site. The surface level sampling data from the Phase 1 study proved inconclusive, so a Phase 2 study was recommended to conduct core drilling to provide more detailed information on the current status of the site. The Phase 1 study has been reviewed within VA and plans for contracting for the Phase 2 study have been approved and are currently under development. Phase 2 will consist of surface and subsurface evaluation of the area with core sampling and ground water checks. As requested, a copy of the Phase 1 report is enclosed.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. James Nicholson".

R. James Nicholson

Enclosure